

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been canceled; and claims 10-19 have been added. Accordingly, claims 3-5, and 8-19 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 3 and 9, which have been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 1; and claim 8, which has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 6, avoid the use of the phrases objected to in the Office Action. Accordingly, independent claims 3, 8 and 9 should be found to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ishii, U.S. Patent No. 5,768,389. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, claims 3 and 8, which were indicated as being directed to allowable subject matter, have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claims 1 and 6, respectively. Further, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claims 1 and 3. Claims 2 and 7 were also canceled without

prejudice or disclaimer and presented as new claims 10 and 11, respectively depending from claims 3 and 8. Accordingly, claims 3-5 and 8-11 should be allowed.

New Claims

Claims 12-19 are patentable over the art of record. Support in the specification for these claims is provided on page 16, line 15 through page 17, line 19, for example. Specifically, Fig. 1 shows a storing circuit 1004 and a converting program 1010 supporting the conversion means for converting the secret information forming information to other secret information forming information having a relationship with regard to the secret information and used to form the secret information. Further, the processing means is supported by the elliptic curve encrypting/decrypting program 1011. Claim 13 sets forth secret information partial information set forth in original claim 2, for example. With respect to claims 16-19, claims 16 and 18 are similar to original claim 4, and claims 17 and 19 are similar to original claim 5. Accordingly, there is adequate support for new claims 12-19.

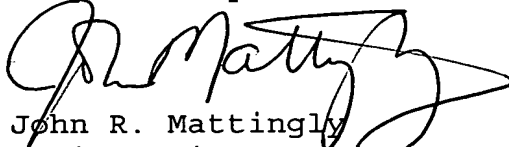
Drawing Corrections

In view of obvious spelling corrections required in Figs. 1, 5, 8, 10 and 12, Applicants provide replacement sheets for these drawings with the spelling of "UNIT" in Figs. 1, 5, 8 and 10 and the spelling of "MESSAGE" in Fig. 12. Acceptance of the corrected drawings is respectively requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", is written over the typed name and registration number.

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